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MONTGOMERY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Employee Services Council

February 13, 2026

Zoom

10AM-11:15AM

Attendees:

- Members present
  - Sepydeh Yousefi
  - Silvia Vargas
  - Stephanie Krasnoff
  - Michaela Pacesova
  - Elizabeth Feldman
  - Krista Leitch Walker
  - Tracie Witte
  - Christina Segura
  - Nell Feldman
  - Adaora Nwigwe
  - Alexander Valencia Reyes
- Not present
  - Aerial Agah Achu
  - Alexa Patricia Canas
  - Aubrey Smith
- Proxies present: Sepydeh Yousefi for
- Members excused: None
- Other present: Yvette Taylor, Clevette Ridguard
- Invited Guests
  - Antonio Montano  
Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

Call to Order

- The regular meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Chair, Sepy Yousefi. The meeting was recorded for internal use only.

Approval of Minutes

- Meeting minutes were approved.

Constituent Concerns

- Liz Feldman raised the total cost of the new branding campaign.
  - Dr. Ridguard is addressing the concern with administration.
  - Stephanie Krasnoff hopes to have an answer by the next meeting.
- Good faith consideration form
  - The Good Faith Consideration form is no longer an immediate issue but remains a long-term concern. Krisa will follow up, as the matter is deadline-sensitive.
- Starfish Website Link regarding the visibility of the Starfish link at MyMC.
  - Sepy attended a website content strategy meeting, invited by Dr. Tykesha Reed, where the need for a more prominent placement was discussed. The group agreed on improving visibility and explored potential locations for a direct link.
  - The changes have been implemented.

Chair's Report

- Governance Theme 2025–2026
  - Theme: Leading Through Participation: Inclusive, Intentional, and Impactful Governance
  - Discussion emphasized fostering inclusive leadership practices and encouraging active participation across all departments and levels of the institution.

- Communications and Engagement
  - The Monday Minute: Team encouraged to utilize The Monday Minute for updates on institutional news and upcoming events.
  - Aim: Increase awareness and engagement in ongoing initiatives.
  - Proving What's Possible: Multimedia brand campaign that highlights students and celebrates the power of exceptional education to deliver extraordinary outcomes.
  
- Announcements
  - **Enrollment Management Office Hours Update**  
The committee was informed that, effective Monday, February 16, the Enrollment Management offices will implement revised office hours to better support student access to services. The affected offices include Raptor Central, Records & Registration, and Student Financial Aid and Scholarship. The new office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday: 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
  - **Food Services Update – CafeMC Spring 2026 Hours**  
An update was provided regarding CafeMC dining services for Spring 2026. Changes include extended weekday dining hours and the addition of a dedicated Grab-and-Go service after lunch to provide students with quick meal options between classes.
  - **Advocacy for the College**

**FY27 Operating Budget**

Information was shared regarding opportunities for advocacy in support of the College's FY27 Operating Budget request. Members were encouraged to email the County Executive, Marc Elrich (Marc.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov), to request full funding of the College's FY27 operating budget. The County Executive will submit the proposed budget to the Montgomery County Council on March 15.

Members were advised that brief emails sent from personal accounts are most effective. Individuals should note their affiliation with the College and briefly describe the work they do and its impact. The College Council should be copied on these communication (collegecouncil@montgomerycollege.edu).

Additional advocacy opportunities are expected as the Montgomery County Council conducts hearings and work sessions on the budget in April and the following months. For more information see: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/government-relations/>

**Theatre Arts Building Renovation**

Information was shared encouraging members to advocate for modernization of the College's Theatre Arts building as part of the College's capital budget priorities. Support for the Theatre Arts renovation was noted as an important investment in Montgomery College students and the broader community, as it supports access, equity, and opportunities for students pursuing careers in the arts.

Members were encouraged to email Montgomery County Councilmembers expressing support for the Theatre Arts renovation and the College's capital budget. Messages should briefly note the need for modern classrooms and labs, identify the sender's affiliation with Montgomery College, and include a home address if residing in Montgomery County. Members were also advised to copy the College Council on their emails.

For more information see: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/offices/government-relations/>

- **Student Trustee Opportunity – Board of Trustees**

Information was shared that the Nominating Committee for the Montgomery College Board of Trustees is accepting applications for the Student Trustee position for a one-year term from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027.

Eligible applicants must be Montgomery College students who have completed at least 18 credit hours, maintain a minimum cumulative and current semester GPA of 2.0, be enrolled in at least six credit hours, and reside in Montgomery County during the term of service. The position requires a significant time commitment, including monthly board meetings, committee participation, and attendance at College events. Employees who are also students at Montgomery College are not eligible to serve.

Additional information is available on the Montgomery College website.

- **Governance Nominations and Elections**

An announcement was shared encouraging participation in the College's governance nominations and elections process. Members were encouraged to nominate themselves to ensure their voices are represented.

The nomination period runs from February 23 to March 6, and elections will take place from March 30 to April 10.

- **2026–2027 Governance Assessment Project**

Information was shared regarding the upcoming 2026–2027 Governance Assessment Project. Additional details will be disseminated to the College community as the project moves forward.

Broad participation from across the College community is encouraged to ensure diverse perspectives are represented and to support strong strategic alignment.

- **Black History Month Events**

Programming includes a film screening on Black and Jewish activism in the 1960s and Our Words, Our Worlds, celebrating Black women through storytelling and historical reflection.

- **Heart Health Month**

February is recognized as Heart Health Month, highlighting the importance of cardiovascular wellness through healthy eating, regular exercise, and stress management.

- **Data Rocks – Know Your Numbers!**

Free biometric screenings will be offered to promote awareness of personal health metrics.

- **Free Weekly Personal Training**

The Health and Human Performance Department's Exercise is Medicine program will offer free weekly personal training from March 9 to April 29 on Mondays and Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m. or 2–3 p.m. Participants must attend their selected weekly session.

- **2026 Commencement Ceremonies**

Montgomery College will hold two commencement ceremonies in 2026. Student Affairs offices and student services will operate on a limited basis during this period; essential functions will remain available, though response times and in-person support may be reduced. Students are encouraged to plan ahead and check office websites for updated hours. Normal operations will resume after the ceremonies.

The College is seeking volunteers to support commencement activities on Thursday and Friday, with a total of 550 volunteers needed to ensure a smooth experience for graduates and their guests.

- **2026 Award Nominations**  
Nominations are now open for the following awards, due by March 2, 2026:  
Administrator Leadership Award  
Outstanding Staff and Staff of the Year  
Outstanding Full-Time and Part-Time Faculty Awards for the 2025–2026 academic year
- **Staff Enrichment Day 2026**  
Staff Enrichment Day will take place on March 18, 2026, at the Takoma Park campus. This will be a full-day event featuring workshops and networking opportunities.

Guest Speaker: Antonio Montano, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager

- **Annual Equity Week Event Discussion**  
A general discussion was held regarding co-sponsoring an event during MC's Annual Equity Week. Brainstorming and ideas were shared, but no final decisions were reached.
  - Follow-up: Discussion emphasized broadening disability and inclusion efforts beyond accommodations to engage students, faculty, and staff. Proposed actions include partnerships with student services, expanded or mandatory training for employees, and integration into campus culture and awareness programming.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Final Thoughts/Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Liz Feldman. It was seconded and passed with unanimous support.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:15AM

Respectfully submitted by  
Silvia Vargas, Employee Services Council Secretary